

April 17-23 – Minority Cancer Awareness Week

CANCER FACTS*

- Overall, African Americans are more likely to develop cancer than persons of any other racial or ethnic group.
- African Americans have higher than average colon and rectum cancer death rates than other racial and ethnic groups.
- African Americans have twice the average death rates from prostate cancer.
- The number of new cases of cervical cancer among Hispanic women has been consistently higher at all ages than for other women.
- Only 52 percent of American Indian / Alaska Native women aged 40 and older had a recent mammogram.
- American Indian and Alaska Natives have the poorest survival from all cancers combined in comparison with all other racial and ethnic groups.

HEALTH DISPARITIES

The burden of cancer is too often greater for poor, ethnic minorities, and the uninsured than for the general population.

Many of the differences in the number of new cancer cases and the death rates among racial and ethnic groups may be due to factors associated with social class rather than ethnicity.

RESOURCES

American Cancer Society
www.cancer.org

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Activities to Eliminate Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Cancer
www.cdc.gov/cancer/minorityawareness.htm

Intercultural Cancer Council
www.icc.bcm.tmc.edu

Michigan Cancer Consortium
www.michigancancer.org

Michigan Department of Community Health – Office of Minority Health
www.michigan.gov/mdch

National Cancer Institute – Special Populations Networks
<http://crchd.nci.nih.gov/spn>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Closing the Health Gap Campaign
www.healthgap.omhrc.gov

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Office of Minority Health
www.omhrc.gov

University of Michigan School of Public Health – Studying and Improving Minority Health in Michigan
www.sph.umich.edu/cbph/programs/simhim

National Minority Cancer Week is April 17 – 23, 2005 and is an opportunity for health care providers, community organizations, and state and local agencies to:

- EDUCATE the public about the importance of detecting cancer early among ethnic minority groups
- IMPROVE cancer control and prevention within minority and underserved populations
- SUPPORT programs aimed at reducing racial and ethnic disparities in cancer incidence and survivorship

Here are some programs in Michigan that are dedicated to improving minority cancer awareness:

ACCESS

ACCESS works closely with the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute to provide culturally sensitive public education on breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer to Arab Americans in the Dearborn and Detroit area. Outreach efforts target mosques, English as a Second Language classes, and other sites followed by home visits to encourage breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screening. For more information, please contact Hiam Hamade at 313-216-2206 or hhamade@accesscommunity.org.

Healthy Asian American Project, University of Michigan School of Nursing

The Healthy Asian American Project (HAAP) reaches out to members of seven Asian ethnic groups to encourage health promotion, disease prevention, and access to care. The seven ethnic groups are: Chinese, Korean, Filipino, Japanese, Vietnamese, Asian Indian, and Hmong. HAAP promotes breast and cervical cancer screening to Asian women and provides assistance to women screened in the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program. HAAP's efforts are primarily focused in Southeastern Michigan. For more information, please contact Mei-yu Yu, PhD at 734-936-8950 or yujiang@umich.edu.

Improving Cancer Outcomes of African Americans in Michigan

Coordinated by Faith Access to Community Economic Development in Flint, this project involves African American Communities in Detroit, Flint, Lansing, Pontiac, and Saginaw. The overall goal of this project is to improve cancer outcomes in African Americans by increasing 1) community awareness and understanding of cancer and the importance of cancer prevention, screening, treatment, and cancer clinical trials; 2) participation in cancer screening programs; and 3) participation in clinical trials among African Americans. For more information about this project, please contact Yvonne Lewis at 810-232-7733 or ylewis@ameritech.net.

Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Inc.

The Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Inc. (ITC) works to coordinate health promotion and disease prevention activities with Michigan's twelve federally-recognized Native American tribes. ITC strives to support and enhance the working partnerships between local health departments and the Michigan tribes. In addition, the ITC assists with development of effective public education messages and effective recruiting strategies to promote access to breast and cervical cancer screening and follow-up services for Native American women. For more information, please contact Noel Pingatore at 906-632-6896 or noelp@itcmti.org.

Michigan Multicultural Network

The Michigan Multicultural Network is comprised of five agencies that service African Americans, Arab/Chaldean Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic/Latino Americans, and Native Americans. Funded by the Michigan Department of Community Health, this network aims to promote awareness about tobacco use and its impact on people of color. For more information, please contact Sophia Hines at 517-335-9898 or hinessop@michigna.gov.